



Keiskamma Children's Art Clubs Funders Pack



Introduction to the Art Clubs

In the winter months of June and July in South Africa 2025, the Keiskamma Art Project established two Children's Art Clubs in the villages of Bodiam and Hamburg. In each Club, 1 lead facilitator and 3 assistant facilitators work with 15 children from ages 9 to 12 every week in 2-hour sessions. The Clubs are led by local women, creating safe places of nurture, creativity and learning; where children are heard as active members of the community. The Clubs provide the environment for the women and children to thrive and for children's curiosity and imaginations to be nurtured, so that each child feels a sense of belonging and care towards their local community, the land and their culture.

Hamburg and Bodiam are the home of the Keiskamma Art Project. The Keiskamma Art Project began in 2001 and has consistently employed village women, a group ranging from 50 to 100. The Keiskamma Art Project is known for its large-scale textile artworks, which are internationally exhibited, they work with a personal and local iconography drawing upon Xhosa traditions. The artists in the project are now aging. Collective concern has been voiced by the Keiskamma artists regarding who will be the next generation of artists at the Keiskamma Art Project.

With no formal art education in the local schools, the challenge these Art Clubs address is that art education and creative play are not prioritised. This is exacerbated by the lack of creative play between primary carers and children at home, in part due to the demands of work and domestic life. The Keiskamma Children's Art Clubs provide a place to engage in play, specifically intergenerational play, reinforcing the social and cultural fabric of the community. The Art Clubs have provided an opportunity for social change and growth within the children, their local community and family.



Assistant Facilitators Anelisa Nyongo and Nombulelo Jack at the Bodiam Keiskamma Art Club leading a playful 'greetings' game. Warm up activities create important opportunities for intergenerational play, to build trust and confidence and create a fun atmosphere.

Images throughout this document were captured by Joe Hague, Grace Coetzee and Carolyn Watt.

The Art Club supports the local community: "because it gives children the safe space to express emotions, ideas and stories through visual art."
(Ndileka Mvubu, Art Club Lead Facilitator, 2025)



“Providing children with a safe, creative space means triggering mechanisms of change not only in their development through artistic and creative activities, but also in social change, a positive impact on their local community and family. Children have the ability to convey a message of change, hope, and dreams through their creative and artistic activities, by showing their “creations” to family, friends, and so on. Curiosity, like beauty, is contagious.”
(Savina Tarsitano, Keiskamma Children’s Art Clubs Facilitator Trainer and Artist, Creator of the Mechanism of Wellbeing, Co-Producer of Keiskamma Children’s Art Clubs, International Coordinator of Kids’ Guernica and Member of the European Cultural Parliament, Italy)



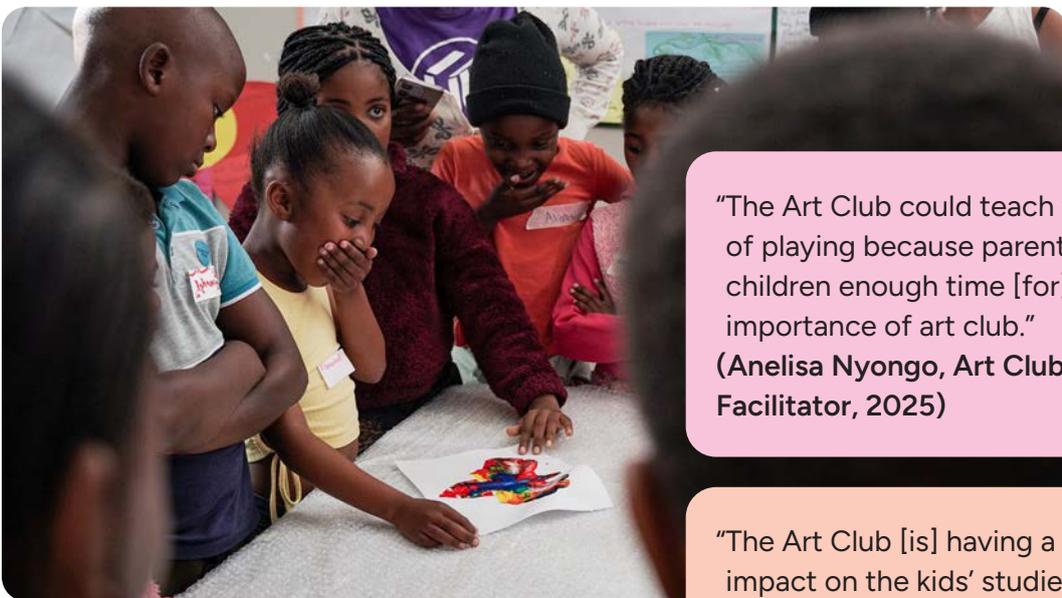
Why the Art Clubs are needed

The Eastern Cape region is poor economically, but rich in nature and Xhosa culture. The communities in these villages have been profoundly impacted by the HIV/AIDS crisis. Here children and adults live with complex health concerns. With no formal art education in the local schools, the challenge this project addresses is that art education and creative play are not prioritised, further intergenerational transfer of traditional creative skills have been replaced by modern lifestyles that cuts out that vital time between children and older generations. This project fills this gap offering a dedicated space for creative self-expression, addressing the lack of play between primary carers and children; a concern voiced by community members in the villages.

The Children's Art Clubs in effect provide a place to engage in play, specifically intergenerational play, reinforcing the social and cultural fabric of the community. While at the same time, building confidence, in their ability to make creative decisions.

By fostering imagination, resourcefulness and self-worth, the Art Clubs help to interrupt cycles of poverty and disempowerment, offering children and their communities the tools to imagine and create different futures.

Actively investing in the development of the next generation of artists supports the longevity of the Keiskamma Art Project, established in 2000. This will have a significant impact on the rural creative economy in the Eastern Cape of South Africa. It will improve the quality of arts education (Sustainable Development Goal 4 Quality Education) and improve the community's wellbeing (Sustainable Development Goal 3 Good health and Wellbeing) through the cultivation of intergenerational creative play and connection.



Learning through creative play is at the heart of the Keiskamma Art Clubs. In this photograph children at the Hamburg Keiskamma Art Club are discovering the wonder of mixing primary colours to form secondary and tertiary colours.

"The Art Club could teach the importance of playing because parents don't give children enough time [for] play and the importance of art club."

(Anelisa Nyongo, Art Club Assistant Facilitator, 2025)

"The Art Club [is] having a positive impact on the kids' studies and also the teachers are notic[ing] improvements in school since they joined Art Club, that's why I want this Art club to keep going."

(Bulie Jack, Art Club Assistant Facilitator, 2025)

How the Art Clubs have been created

A set of values, objectives, facilitator attitudes and qualities and rules were co-created through community consultation in June and July of 2025. The vision for the Keiskamma Children's Art Clubs is rooted in the understanding that in every child lies the seed of our future. Tending to them, nourishing them, supporting their creativity, is considered essential for them to grow and express their own ideas in a safe environment.

"The Art Club plays a vital role in our community by providing a safe and nurturing environment for children after school. It not only keeps them engaged in creative activities but also supports their basic needs, including food."
(Nokuzola Mvaphantsi, Art Club Lead Facilitator, 2025)



Activities are planned and prepared led by the two Lead Facilitators Ndileka Mvubu in Bodiam and Nokuzola Mvaphantsi in Hamburg. The Keiskamma Art Clubs' structure involves individual and group activities to foster individual development and collective sharing and listening.

“The Keiskamma Children’s Art Club is unique in that children are rooted in the ‘homes’ of our project – the work places and social environments of their parents, grandparents as well as artists they respect in their communities – and in the villages they call their own.

The impacts of the Keiskamma Children’s Art Club work toward healing disconnects, in many respects. One of our primary challenges in South Africa is making sure futures are viable for our children and youth, that they have the skills to navigate a complex world and to earn their own livelihood. The perception that the only hope is far away in cities (beset with a number of socio-economic challenges of their own), or in general, that everything needed for a future is not here nor ‘within’ but ‘out there’ and also out of reach, is a fundamental assumption we are committed to addressing.

Through the Keiskamma Children’s Art Club, linked to art therapy in its supportive environment, focus on creative play, nurture, and most especially consistency, children can develop a sense of their own resources, within. In line with a humanising, decolonial pedagogy, the recentering of a young child’s experience from a sense of everything they need and desire being out there, to a belief in their own resources, and within the gambit of their own experience, is vital. The importance of the values of self-reliance and dignity, as well as having a creative toolbox for independent and ethical decision-making, cannot be underestimated. These are fundamental essentials for young people able to craft a viable future for themselves.”

(Michaela Howse, Manager of the Keiskamma Art Project, 2025)



What next?

The start-up phase of the Art Clubs has been supported and funded by the UK's Arts and Humanities Research Council [grant number AH/Z50757X/1] and the University of Brighton, UK (April 2025 - January 2026). Building on this foundation, the next stage will strengthen and sustain this locally rooted model of creative learning. The focus now is on deepening impact, developing facilitators' skills, expanding children's creative and practical capacities, and embedding the Clubs within a wider ecology of community support. Working with local artists to train facilitators equipping them with new creative skills to use in the Art Clubs.

Every contribution, large or small, plays a vital role in helping support the Keiskamma children's Art Clubs in Hamburg and Bodiam.

There is an opportunity to fund

- The weekly Keiskamma Art Clubs to enable local children to experience creative activities, such as: baking, food preparation, art activities, working with recycled materials, games and gardening, all of which support children in developing imagination, creativity and life skills.
- Family engagement days filled with creative, collaborative activities, designed to grow families' capacity to see and experience the value of shared intergenerational creative play.
- A series of workshops with guest South African artists to expand facilitators' knowledge, skills, teaching and creative confidence.

No matter the size, every donation strengthens a creative community. Your support directly nurtures artistic growth, emotional wellbeing, and opportunities for young people who deserve who deserve the opportunity to create and play.



Donating

To run 2 art clubs once a week for 1 month:

- 2 x Lead Facilitator salaries for 1 month = R4,428
- 6 x Assistant Facilitator salaries for 1 month = R9,300
- Transport for children = R640
- Catering = R4,920
- Public Liability Insurance = R280
- Data for communication = R800
- Art materials = R2,000

Total = R21,568 (£950, €1,085)

XE Currency converter 28/11/2025



Fundraising donation webpage: please note 'Art Club Donation' as the reference:
https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=4NBNFQGSVCKVA

"I can see this creativity, it can help in careers, it is not about drawing only... because in workshops we also learn new things... sharing of skills in creativity... it also helps the children to think more."

(Lindiswa Gedze, Art Club Assistant Facilitator, 2025)



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The Keiskamma Trust: <https://keiskamma.org>



The Art Club Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/keiskammachildrensartclub>

